

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Agency 490

Department of Natural Resources

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	1,365.9	86,335	288,868	375,203
Total Maintenance Level	1,367.9	81,993	285,830	367,823
Difference	2.0	(4,342)	(3,038)	(7,380)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.1%	(5.0)%	(1.1)%	(2.0)%
Performance Changes				
Increase Nursery Planting and Harvest			1,800	1,800
Increase Forest Road Maintenance			1,630	1,630
Shift Helicopter Funding			(1,972)	(1,972)
Reduce Land Management on Agricultural Trust Lands		(800)	(800)	(1,600)
Reduce Natural Heritage Program		(537)		(537)
Reduce Administrative Costs		(1,000)		(1,000)
Increase Silviculture Burn Permit Fee		(750)	750	
Reduce Fire Control Costs		(1,607)		(1,607)
Transfer Law Enforcement to Fish and Wildlife #	(5.1)	(115)		(115)
Enforcement Interagency Agreement			1,500	1,500
Forest Practices Reduction		(2,248)		(2,248)
Puget Sound Corps #	(6.3)	(644)		(644)
Transfer Forest Practices Hydraulic Projects	.3	225		225
Transfer Natural Heritage Program #	(3.5)	(385)	(471)	(856)
Natural Resources Consolidation #	8.9	1,389	1,650	3,039
Savings from Natural Resources Consolidation	(1.5)	(50)		(50)
Maintain Adaptive Management Program	.3		1,000	1,000
Absorb Health Insurance Increase		(1,330)		(1,330)
Absorb Unemployment Cost Increase		(832)		(832)
Resume Delayed Lands Management Work	5.1		3,184	3,184
Charge Fees for State Lands Access*	11.0	(1,173)	5,000	3,827
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(679)	(2,203)	(2,882)
State Data Center Rate Increase		420	1,051	1,471
Subtotal	9.2	(10,116)	12,119	2,003
Total Proposed Budget	1,377.1	71,877	297,949	369,826
Difference	11.2	(14,458)	9,081	(5,377)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.8%	(16.7)%	3.1%	(1.4)%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Administration	105.2	10,437	20,764	31,201
Correctional Camps	41.4	4,116	2,750	6,866
Fire Control - Preparedness, Training and Forest Fire Protection Assessment	175.4	6,075	17,802	23,877
Fire Regulation and Prevention	63.6	2,438	11,198	13,636

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	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Fire Suppression	1.1	20,074	12,413	32,487
Resource Protection (Forest Health and Urban and Community Forestry)	3.9	576	2,864	3,440
Forest Practices Act and Rules	138.9	21,692		21,692
Forest Practices - Manage Adaptively	3.5	1,234	8,885	10,119
Small Forest Landowner and Stewardship Office	7.5	373	4,729	5,102
Geology	13.0	2,273	632	2,905
Surface Mining	15.5	2	3,119	3,121
Natural Areas	13.1	651	1,882	2,533
Natural Heritage	3.4	(193)	481	288
Recreation	49.3	(13)	10,866	10,853
Washington Conservation Corps	1.4	250	1,501	1,751
Law Enforcement	5.0	105	3,200	3,305
State Lands Management - Product Sales	232.0	311	69,898	70,209
State Lands Management - Leasing	61.0	673	14,453	15,126
State Lands Management - Silviculture	85.8	117	27,026	27,143
State Lands Management - Ecosystem Services, Research and Monitoring, and Data Stewardship	62.7	303	13,680	13,983
State Lands Management - Mapping and Survey	58.0	190	10,351	10,541
State Lands Management - Roads	101.5		29,566	29,566
State Lands Management - Asset Planning and Transactions	12.9	175	3,232	3,407
Aquatic Lands Business Management	62.9		14,208	14,208
Shellfish Program	11.9		3,359	3,359
Aquatic Lands Environmental Management	32.4	2	6,912	6,914
Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program (PSAMP) and Stewardship Science	10.1		2,178	2,178
Resource Protection	5.3	16		16
Total Proposed Budget	1,377.1	71,877	297,949	369,826

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Increase Nursery Planting and Harvest

Due to an ongoing increase in silviculture activity resulting from the stabilization of timber sales, the Silviculture Program is anticipated to increase its seedling purchases in the 2011-13 biennium. This will require additional work by the State Forest Nursery to provide the necessary stock. (State Forest Nursery Revolving Account-Nonappropriated)

Increase Forest Road Maintenance

The Department of Natural Resources' Roads Program maintains a road network of approximately 12,000 miles on department-managed lands. This ongoing increase will enable the program to stay on track to complete federally-mandated road maintenance and abandonment planning work by July 1, 2016. (Access Road Revolving Account-Nonappropriated)

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Shift Helicopter Funding

In the 2010 supplemental operating budget, 50 percent of the funding for the Department of Natural Resources' fire suppression helicopter fleet was transferred to the nonappropriated Forest Fire Protection Assessment Account (FFPA) from the non-budgeted Natural Resources Equipment Account (NREA). Revenues in the FFPA are not sufficient to sustain this fund shift while carrying out forest fire prevention and preparedness activities. This ongoing funding shift back to the NREA will keep the FFPA Account balanced and maintain current levels of fire prevention and preparedness activities. (Forest Fire Prevention Assessment Account-Nonappropriated)

Reduce Land Management on Agricultural Trust Lands

The amount of General Fund-State funding provided for deposit into the Agricultural College Trust Management Account (ACTMA) is reduced. Because the ACTMA receives all of its revenue from General Fund-State deposits, expenditure authority in the ACTMA is also reduced by an equal amount. This one-time reduction will lower land management activities on Agricultural College trust lands to a 2006 level. (General Fund-State, Agricultural College Trust Management Account-State)

Reduce Natural Heritage Program

General Fund-State support of the Natural Heritage Program is reduced on an ongoing basis. The program provides data used by a number of agencies, organizations, companies, and individuals for conservation planning, environmental review processes, and other information requests.

Reduce Administrative Costs

The Department of Natural Resources will, on a one-time basis, reduce non-emergency equipment purchases, manage vacancies to achieve savings, and reduce travel budgets throughout the agency.

Increase Silviculture Burn Permit Fee

RCW 70.94.6534 directs the Department of Natural Resources to charge a fee for silviculture burn permits that would raise revenue to a level necessary to cover the costs of the program. Fee revenue, however, has never been sufficient to cover these costs. The entire General Fund-State expenditure authority for this purpose is shifted on an ongoing basis to the Air Pollution Control Account to match anticipated fee revenue. (General Fund-State, Air Pollution Control Account-State)

Reduce Fire Control Costs

On a one-time basis, the Department of Natural Resources will reduce discretionary fire training, freeze wages for exempt firefighters, and reorganize administrative support positions in its fire control program. An internal review of the Forest Fire Protection Assessment tax parcels will continue to remain suspended in the 2011-13 biennium.

Transfer Law Enforcement to Fish and Wildlife #

Pursuant to executive request legislation consolidating natural resource agencies, funding and FTE staff are decreased to reflect the transfer of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) eight law enforcement officers into the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Enforcement Division, effective July 1, 2012. This will lead to greater enforcement presence on state trust lands and greater enforcement presence during hunting and fishing seasons. DNR and DFW will enter into an interagency agreement to reconcile payment of costs stemming from increased enforcement on state trust lands.

Enforcement Interagency Agreement

With the transfer of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Law Enforcement Program to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the agencies will enter into an interagency agreement whereby DNR will cover costs stemming from increased enforcement on DNR-managed lands. Expenditure authority from DNR's management accounts is increased to reflect the ongoing charges for this increased enforcement in Fiscal Year 2013. (Resource Management Cost Account-State, Forest Development Account-State)

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Forest Practices Reduction

This ongoing reduction reflects current discussions between the Department of Natural Resources and stakeholders of the Forest Practices Program. It is assumed that by July 1, 2012, an agreement will be reached to increase application fees and implement efficiency reforms.

Puget Sound Corps #

Legislation is proposed to consolidate the administration of the Department of Natural Resources' Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) into the Department of Ecology's WCC. Funding and staff are reduced to reflect transfer of the WCC, effective July 1, 2012.

Transfer Forest Practices Hydraulic Projects

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) will enter into an interagency agreement by July 1, 2012 in order to restructure the forest practices application to include requirements that protect fish habitat. The agreement will also include a process for how decisions are made on forest practices applications when an applicant's project impacts fish life and fish habitat. General Fund-State expenditure authority and FTEs are transferred to DNR on an ongoing basis for processing forest practices applications with Hydraulic Project Approval requirements. If an agreement cannot be reached by July 1, 2012, the General Fund amount transferred to DNR will revert to DFW.

Transfer Natural Heritage Program #

Pursuant to executive request legislation consolidating natural resource agencies, funding and FTE staff are decreased to reflect the transfer of the Natural Heritage Program from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, effective July 1, 2012. The agencies will enter into an interagency agreement to reconcile payment of costs stemming from work on state trust lands. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, General Fund-Private/Local)

Natural Resources Consolidation #

Pursuant to executive request legislation consolidating natural resource agencies, funding and FTE staff are increased to reflect the transfer of the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to the Department of Natural Resources, effective July 1, 2012. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, General Fund-Private/Local, Skeletal Human Remains Account-Nonappropriated)

Savings from Natural Resources Consolidation

Consolidation of the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) into the Department of Natural Resources, effective July 1, 2012, will result in the reduction of one Geographic Information System (GIS) cartographer, one financial manager, and one GIS data manager. These reductions will offset anticipated one-time consolidation costs of \$300,000 in Fiscal Year 2013. Additionally, DAHP's budgeted amount for Small Agency Client Services is eliminated.

Maintain Adaptive Management Program

The Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program uses science to determine if rules protect and restore water quality and aquatic habitat on working forestlands near Puget Sound and other fragile ecosystems across the state. The program recommends to the Forest Practices Board science-based rule adaptations as needed. This one-time federal appropriation will allow existing research projects to continue while the program secures long-term sustained funding. (General Fund-Federal)

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Absorb Health Insurance Increase

The Department of Natural Resources will absorb increased health insurance costs resulting from the Health Care Authority's January 2010 decision that extended health care coverage to seasonal employees. This one-time absorption will be managed as programs across the agency decrease spending, thereby decreasing administrative overhead costs.

Absorb Unemployment Cost Increase

In order to achieve General Fund-State savings in the 2011-13 biennium, the Department of Natural Resources will absorb increased unemployment costs as the result of fewer seasonal fire employees returning to work after the fire season. This one-time absorption will be managed as programs across the agency decrease spending, thereby decreasing administrative overhead costs.

Resume Delayed Lands Management Work

In the 2009-11 enacted operating budget, the Resource Management Cost Account was reduced substantially due to the decrease in timber revenues. Revenues have since stabilized and started to increase. Increased expenditure authority will allow resumption of delayed silvicultural activities, which will help to maintain timber values in the future. (Resource Management Cost Account-State)

Charge Fees for State Lands Access*

Agency request legislation is proposed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a new Explore Washington Pass for admission to lands managed by DFW and DNR. The pass will generate revenue for DFW and DNR to manage recreation lands. Revenue will be distributed equally between DNR's Park Land Trust Revolving Account and DFW's State Wildlife Account. The amount authorized in the Park Land Trust Revolving Account will allow DNR to address growing demands for recreation opportunities by restoring maintenance efforts reduced in the 2009-11 biennium. DNR will also be able to repair damage on state trust lands caused by an increase in unauthorized user-built trails and structures. New revenue will offset 100 percent of General Fund-State funding and 33 percent of NOVA Account funding for DNR's recreation program. (General Fund-State, Park Land Trust Revolving Account-Nonappropriated, NOVA Account-State)

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Administration

Core administrative and executive management functions for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) include leadership and oversight over all agency operations, policy development, intergovernmental relations, internal audit, media relations, communications, budget development and management, and revenue forecasting. The Financial Management Division oversees revenues, expenditures, payroll, grant and contract management, coordination of risk management, and mail services. Human Resources coordinates appointments, performance management, recruitment, human resource development, training, employee safety, and labor relations. The Information Technology (IT) Division manages and maintains IT infrastructures and the IT portfolio, provides support to systems and staff, and coordinates enhancements. The Facilities Management Unit coordinates facilities issues. Environmental Review and Analysis coordinates State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) activities for the agency, agency rulemaking, and public disclosure. This activity represents the "overhead" portion of administrative functions; the remainder is distributed as "indirect" to all DNR activities.

Correctional Camps

This activity provides trained, cost-effective inmate crews for emergency fire suppression, recreation facility improvements, community projects, and state land management activities. The camps are run in coordination with inmate training and rehabilitation goals of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Social and Health Services' Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration.

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Fire Control - Preparedness, Training and Forest Fire Protection Assessment

Primary activities include preparing fire mobilization and other plans, purchasing and maintaining fire equipment, and establishing fire precaution levels. In addition, DNR provides training for incident-management team members, spring training for seasonal firefighters, periodic training for fireline-rated personnel, and maintains fire records for fire district and department personnel in the incident-qualifications system. DNR also provides accurate and timely collection of fire protection assessments by annually auditing 20 percent of tax assessment rolls, monitoring county collections for accurate distributions of funds, and providing appropriate refunds to taxpayers as provided by law.

Fire Regulation and Prevention

Primary activities include maintaining and updating the statewide risk assessment of fire hazards, fuels, and forest health on agency-protected forestlands, coordinating assessments on adjacent federal and fire protection district lands. Staff also work to reduce the risks and size of wildfires through regulated burning, hazard abatement, equipment, and movement of people in forested areas; increase the response capacity of fire protection districts; decrease hazards through manipulation of forest health and fuels in high hazard areas; assist communities to develop wildfire protection plans and implement planned fuels work; and educate students and adults about wildfire risks and how to abate or decrease existing and future risks.

Fire Suppression

This activity consists of the suppression of fires on timber and range lands protected by DNR.

Resource Protection (Forest Health and Urban and Community Forestry)

The Forest Health Program annually monitors forest insect and disease conditions, and provides education and technical assistance to state and private forest landowners in efforts to improve forest health. The Urban and Community Forestry Program provides coordinated technical, educational, and financial assistance to communities and cities to help establish locally-funded, supported, and maintained urban forestry programs to enhance the quality of life and health in Washington's urban areas.

Forest Practices Act and Rules

This activity involves processing, reviewing, and making decisions on forest practices applications and notifications. Staff conducts forest practices compliance and enforcement activities, as well as brief adjudicated processes for appealing notices to comply. The unit develops and issues forest practices operational guidance; reviews and approves road maintenance and abandonment plans; supports the 13-member Forest Practices Board; and develops and updates the Forest Practices Board Manual including rules affecting small forest landowners.

Forest Practices - Manage Adaptively

This activity manages the Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program (AMP); the purpose of the AMP is to produce technical information and science based recommendations to assist the Forest Practices Board in determining if and when it is necessary or advisable to adjust forest practices rules and guidance in order to achieve Forest and Fish goals, resource objectives, and performance targets.

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Small Forest Landowner and Stewardship Office

The Small Forest Landowner Office improves the economic vitality and environmental quality of small forestland holdings by providing expertise and technical assistance in the management of small forestland holdings; assisting with development of alternative management and harvest plans; and managing the Forestry Riparian Easement Program and Family Forest Fish Passage Program. The Riparian/Habitat Open Space Program implements department goals by protecting ecologically significant lands and working forests threatened by conversion to other uses while meeting the goals of DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan. The Stewardship Program provides advice and education to non-industrial private forest landowners in developing and implementing a Forest Stewardship Plan for their property. The program helps landowners increase the environmental and economic contributions of their land to society by integrating management for fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and wetlands, timber and wood fiber, forest health, wildfire hazard reduction, special forest products, aesthetics, and recreation.

Geology

Washington State's geography includes geologic conditions that can be hazardous to the public, including volcanic debris flows, earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides. This activity identifies and describes these hazards, including coastal areas at risk for tsunamis and a statewide soil liquefaction potential map to be used by local governments and the state's Emergency Management Division. With the exception of tsunamis, the identification and description of geological hazards begin with a geologic map. This activity maps specific locations selected by the State Geologist, with advice from the State Map Advisory Committee.

Surface Mining

This activity evaluates and issues reclamation permits for surface mines, provides technical assistance to operators, and consults with other agencies with jurisdiction on surface mine and metal mine projects. The Department serves as the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) lead agency for some surface mining actions. The program issues oil and gas well drilling permits, seismic survey permits, and serves as lead agency for SEPA compliance on these permits. Activities include processing permit applications and reviewing reports submitted by the permit holders describing their activities.

Natural Areas

This program conducts maintenance activities and provides operational support for more than 125,000 acres of Natural Area Preserves (NAPs) and Natural Resource Conservation Areas (NRCAs). The program maintains and restores ecological functions of NAPs and NRCAs, protecting native ecosystems, rare plants, and animal species, while providing research and environmental education opportunities and, where appropriate, low-impact public uses.

Natural Heritage

This program maintains information on Washington's native plant and animal species and ecosystems. It maintains a listing of the most imperiled and rare native species and ecosystem types and assigns conservation priorities to each species and ecosystem. It also supports informed decisions by natural resource managers, planners, and businesses and consults on the impact of land use and land management activities on the state's plants, animals, and natural communities.

Recreation

This program provides access to department managed lands and facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreation. It operates and maintains 143 recreation sites and more than 1,000 miles of trails across the state. DNR competes for grant funding, when available, in order to successfully accomplish site and trail maintenance, restoration, and enhancement projects. Volunteers are involved in recreation planning and on-the-ground site and trail maintenance work.

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Washington Conservation Corps

This program provides an on-the-ground labor force for the conservation and enhancement of the state's natural resources, while helping to enrich the lives of young adults through a meaningful work and service experience. Typical projects include increasing the quality and quantity of recreational access by creating, improving, or maintaining trails, trailheads, and campsites; maintaining and protecting Natural Area Preserves and Natural Resource Conservation Areas, primarily through fencing and weed control; and also providing additional personnel to support wildfire response.

Law Enforcement

This program provides law enforcement services within the Department's assigned jurisdictions, to protect the safety of the recreating public and DNR personnel, and to protect the Department's property and the state's natural resources from theft, damage, and destruction. Law Enforcement also investigates crimes and wildfires under DNR's jurisdiction and provides enforcement training for department personnel.

State Lands Management - Product Sales

This activity provides direction and management for the region-based product sales program, including planning, marketing, presales, cruising, and contract administration. Sustained revenue generated from state timber sales and biomass conversion support trust beneficiaries, including the common school construction fund.

State Lands Management - Leasing

DNR manages more than 2,000 agricultural leases on one million acres of trust lands leased as ranches, family farms, or offered for grazing. The Department also manages another 3,000 leases for oil and gas; rock, sand, gravel, and minerals; communication sites; commercial real estate, and community properties. The DNR has acquired more than 2,000 easements for managing state trust lands and has granted more than 5,000 rights-of-way to others who want access across state lands. Sustained revenue generated from leases and rights-of-way support trust beneficiaries, including the common school construction fund.

State Lands Management - Silviculture

This activity develops silvicultural prescriptions and applies forest stand treatments on 2.1 million acres of forested state trust lands. It manages forest stand regeneration on harvested state lands. Silvicultural prescriptions applied to forested state trust lands ensure future healthy forests, and reforestation of all harvested areas ensures availability of state forests in the future. DNR grows seedlings for replanting forested state trust lands and for sale to the public. It also manages seed orchard and the seed collection/extraction/storage programs in order to meet reforestation requirements and ensure future forests are well-adapted and genetically diverse.

State Lands Management - Ecosystem Services, Research and Monitoring, and Data Stewardship

DNR completes sustainable harvest calculations for western Washington and implements it through operational planning. The Department also initiates the development of sustainable harvest calculations for eastern Washington. The Department provides inventory and site information for forested state trust lands and develops landscape/watershed/basin level forest plans. The Department provides state lands support for forest management decision tools, GIS, and growth and yield to ensure sustained levels of forest management on forested state trust lands. DNR provides scientific support for the department's policies and resource management programs to ensure sustainable resources on state lands, including threatened and endangered species, riparian areas for water quality, and protection of unstable slopes. It monitors the implementation of the trust lands habitat conservation plan (HCP) and conducts research to provide information pertinent to HCP strategies and adaptive management.

State Lands Management - Mapping and Survey

This program creates or acquires cartographic and photogrammetric mapping products used for land management and natural resource protection. These products are made available to DNR resource management and protection activities, other government agencies, businesses, and the public. Aerial photography is acquired, and also made available, through partnerships with other agencies. This program also provides staff support to the Board of Geographic Names, chaired by the Commissioner of Public Lands. This program also implements the responsibility given to DNR in RCW 58.24 to provide a means for the identification and preservation of survey points for the description of common land boundaries in the state. Activities include maintaining a statewide survey records repository; providing research material to government, the public, and survey professionals; providing on-the-ground technical property boundary support to DNR land management activities; and maintaining official ownership and encumbrance records for DNR upland and aquatic land management.

State Lands Management - Roads

The Department manages the existing state forest road system, providing access to DNR lands for forest management activities; develops standards and tools for road and bridge design and construction; administers natural resource engineering public works contracts; and provides forest engineering expertise and support to state lands programs.

State Lands Management - Asset Planning and Transactions

This program protects and enhances the asset value of trust and conservation lands through strategic property transactions. Using land sales, purchases, transfers, and exchanges the program improves the financial performance of trust assets while also meeting conservation and recreation goals. Through state and federal grant programs, including the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Forest Legacy, and Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, this program implements department goals by protecting ecologically significant lands and working forests threatened by conversion to other uses. This enables DNR to establish a statewide system of natural areas, meet the goals of DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan, and maintain working natural resource landscapes and our state's rural character.

Aquatic Lands Business Management

This activity authorizes uses of state-owned aquatic lands that encourage public use, fosters water-dependent use, ensures environmental protection, utilizes renewable resources, and generates revenue. Activities include administering signed and pending aquatic-lease agreements, addressing environmental and local planning issues, resolving trespasses; coordinating litigation support, public disclosure, budget/financial/office management, aquatic land transactions, data stewardship, Geographic Information System (GIS), leasing and streamlining authorization processes for businesses operating on state-owned aquatic land; and issuing decisions on pending lease applications. DNR contracts with ports to manage state-owned aquatic lands through ports management agreements. The Department asserts state ownership and interests, and diversifies the income-producing potential of state-owned aquatic lands by developing and coordinating an aquatic resource transaction program; resolves navigability, ownership, and trespass issues; identifies leasing restrictions; and maintains and distributes ownership and encumbrance data for state-owned aquatic lands. The program involves the development, coordination and review of laws, rules, and policies guiding the management of state-owned aquatic lands. Activities include Clean Water Act compliance; coordinating with local shoreline planning efforts; conducting harbor line assessments; developing guidance for aquatic reserves, right-of-way easements, and mooring buoys; reviewing rent determination methods on a variety of uses on state-owned aquatic lands; writing administrative rules; modernizing the aquatic lands statutes; developing guidelines for aquatic land-based wind and tidal energy projections; and preparing for climate change. DNR's aquatic reserves program facilitates a process for aquatic reserve nomination, review, and implementation resulting in a management plan for each designated reserve.

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Shellfish Program

This program oversees the commercial harvest of the state geoduck resource and represents proprietary interests in state-tribal shellfish management. Activities include managing the harvest of the state's share of the geoduck annual total allowable catch; representing the Department on state-tribal shellfish harvest agreements; working with co-managers to protect the shellfish resource and enforce regulations; conducting auctions and direct sales of geoduck to maximize state revenues; researching possible markets for 'by-catch' species such as horse clams; studying the feasibility of geoduck aquaculture; and expanding purchaser pool and market visibility.

Aquatic Lands Environmental Management

DNR manages state-owned aquatic lands in trust for the public and represents the state in federal and state-regulated contaminated sediment clean up processes. The clean up of contaminated sediments on state-owned lands is directed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act or by the Washington State Department of Ecology under the Model Toxics Control Act. DNR is a member of a local, multi-agency committee to measure resource damages and to negotiate with the responsible parties regarding restoration of damaged resources. DNR also removes unneeded creosote pilings and beach debris from the aquatic environment. The Department oversees the removal and disposal of derelict vessels and provides matching dollars when acting as an authorized lead agency in vessel removal; and reimburses other public entities for their removals under the Derelict Vessel Act. Through the Dredge Materials Management Program, a multi-agency program operated by DNR, Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Corps of Engineers, DNR provides dredge disposal sites on state-owned aquatic lands, manages the site, and contracts for environmental monitoring at the sites. Through the spartina program, DNR works to reduce the infestation of *Spartina Alterniflora* in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. Activities include planning for Endangered Species Act compliance and aquatic land restoration planning and implementation and coordination with and support of the Puget Sound Partnership.

Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program (PSAMP) and Stewardship Science

This program monitors trends of critical vegetated marine habitats and provides consultation to DNR, local and state agencies, and other groups on near-shore biology and ecology. Activities include tracking temporal trends in the extent of eelgrass in Puget Sound; inventorying floating kelp resources of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, outer coast, and in Puget Sound; providing a scientific foundation to policy development and other program activities; and measuring abundance and biodiversity in biotic communities in Puget Sound through the Spatial Classification and Landscape Extrapolation Project.

Resource Protection

The Forest Health program annually monitors forest insect and disease conditions, and provides education and technical assistance to state and private forest landowners in efforts to improve forest health. The Urban and Community Forestry program provides coordinated technical, educational, and financial assistance to communities and cities to help establish locally-funded, supported, and maintained urban forestry programs to enhance the quality of life and health in Washington's urban areas.